



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

July 18, 2007

DAVID GEBHARD PUBLIC MEETING ROOM, 630 GARDEN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jordan called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Jordan, Daniel Hochman, Lee Moldaver, George Weber, Daniel Wilson

Committee members absent: Bruce Klobucher, Jeff Phillips

Liaison members present: Councilmember Iya Falcone, Park and Recreation Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Liaison members absent: County Project Clean Water Liaison Rob Almy, Planning Commissioner John Jostes

Staff present: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill E. Zachary, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Water Quality Project Coordinator Jill Murray, Water Quality Monitor Leigh Ann Grabowsky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee members Hochman/Moldaver to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 20, 2007.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Moldaver expressed his support of the presentation on Measure B made by Ms. Zachary and Mr. Benson at the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging Association Luncheon.

Ms. Zachary introduced Leigh Ann Grabowsky, Creeks Division Water Quality Monitor.

7. APPOINTMENT OF EDUCATION/OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Jordan appointed himself, Mr. Hochman, and Mr. Moldaver to the Education/Outreach Subcommittee.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Long Term Ecological Research Project (LTER) (Attachment 2)

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Long Term Ecological Research Project (LTER).

Documents:

Staff Report – July 2007

Power Point Presentation (Jill Murray) – July 2007

Power Point Presentation (John Melack) – July 2007

Speakers:

John Melack, UCSB

Jill Murray, Water Resources Specialist

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee Members asked questions regarding the possibility of remote sensing chemical content and using satellite capacity to match against water samples; whether the study infers that nutrients are good or bad; whether the effect of the Zaca Fire on the chemical composition of the water can be predicted; to what extent the first flush is a contributor to total annual nutrients; whether Creeks Division staff intends to use LTER data to explore septic and groundwater effect on nutrients; whether elevated flux in wet years is maintained by groundwater or storm events; whether the data will change the way the Creeks Division handles restoration and water quality projects; if the effects of climate variation are being studied; whether phosphorus levels are a product of local geology; what effect the nutrients will have on steelhead trout; and, whether the higher nutrient levels in Lower Mission Creek can be attributed to channelization.

Dr. Melack reported that the creeks are too small for remote sensing, but that it can be used for land use study and is used extensively in the Santa

Barbara Channel; some nutrients are from natural sources and some are due to human activities, and the study does not suggest the nutrients are good or bad; the effects of the Zaca Fire can be predicted and shared with the Committee; in wet years the first flush brings runoff from urban areas and the flux of nutrients keeps rising as flow is maintained and more groundwater is drained; LTER data represents larger land use and the Creeks Division would have to sample carefully to characterize problems in creeks; that climate models allow running simulations of input of nutrients, but that rainfall variation is great and cannot be predicted and a bigger worry is drought;

Ms. Murray reported that LTER data will inform future water quality and restoration projects, and that there is enough data to see effects of the Bohnett Park restoration on nutrients; that high phosphorus levels are primarily from erosion of sediment; that steelhead trout are expected to be well adapted to levels of phosphorus in the creeks; and, that the nutrient levels in Lower Mission Creek are affected by runoff from excess irrigation on landscaping, and that much more analysis can be done.

Ms. Zachary reported that the Creeks Division is currently looking at the feasibility of removing fish barriers on Mission Creek, and that the LTER data will help to identify and measure problems and pinpoint outreach efforts.

Mr. Moldaver suggested drafting a letter to the Montecito Journal regarding current odor issues at the Bird Refuge.

Mr. Wilson arrived at 5:40pm.

Mr. Hochman left at 6:35pm.

ADJOURNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSESSION

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Weber to adjourn.

Chair Jordan adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager